

## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MAX D. WALKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
35 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.  
QUINCY, FLORIDA

January 26, 2010

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Roger P. Milton; and Mr. Judge B. Helms. Mr. Charlie D. Frost arrived at 5:15 p.m. during the discussion of the school food service audit. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Eric F. Hinson was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 4:37 p.m.

2. FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Mr. James recognized Mr. James Maloy and the concerned citizens group for the Biomass Center.

Mr. James Maloy shared with the Board a power-point presentation outlining an overview of proposed biomass facility in Gretna, as well as the Quincy incinerator at Byrd Landfill. Mr. Maloy stated that Gretna Elementary School is very close to the proposed facility. He stated the Board should be concerned because it is less than a mile away from Gretna Elementary School. He stated that according to documentation from EcoLaw.biz, burning biomass for energy is "dirtier" than burning coal, and emits large amounts of air pollution and endangers human health. He stated that per unit of power generated, burning wood emits 1.25-3.0 times as much carbon CO<sub>2</sub> (the most important greenhouse gas) as coal. He stated that the site also states that burning emits as much particulate matter as coal, a pollutant associated with asthma, heart disease and cancer. He stated that burning biomass produces hundreds of tons of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, two ingredients of the ground level ozone that causes asthma in children and exacerbates other pulmonary and cardiac disease problems. He stated that the city will get 24 jobs out of this, but he does not think that our children's health is worth it. He stated that there are no scheduled public meetings, and the public is woefully unprepared and uninformed about the issues concerning the proposed facility.

Dr. Ronald Saff referred to the State of Air Report 2009, which gave Leon County a grade of "C" for its air quality. He stated that there was no grade listed for Gadsden County because there is no equipment in the county, placed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, to monitor air quality. He stated that the figures for Leon County are certainly a

good indicator for neighboring Gadsden. He stated that we have enough pollutants and don't need any more such that as a biomass facility would produce. He stated that African American children are even more affected.

Mr. James stated that no one else had approached the Board regarding the biomass facility or provided any information about it.

Mr. Antonio Jefferson, Gretna City Manager, stated that the city is concerned about children and the community, and would be open to further dialogue with the school board.

Mr. Maloy stated that the Concerned Citizens group is hosting an informational meeting, open to the public on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the On The Move For Jesus Church Ministry. He stated that the meeting will include a question and answer session. He stated that the church is located at 15576 Main Street, across from Gretna Elementary School.

Mr. James thanked Mr. Maloy and the Concerned Citizens Group for their presentation. He stated that he had not received any consultation from anyone on the effects of the biomass facility.

Mr. Bruce James stated that the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Education would conduct a Coordinated Review Effort for the School Food Service Department. He stated that the auditors will look at how the district is applying the reimbursement of meals. He stated that federal guidelines require a child to have a choice of milk (white or chocolate). He stated that if one school fails, all schools fail. He stated that the auditors will randomly select three schools for review. He stated that he and School Food Service Management Team will stress to the principals the importance of meal choice. He stated that students must key in their own identification number and each student must identify themselves at the point of service. He stated that no candy or drinks can be sold two hours after a meal (reimbursement meal). He stated that there is zero tolerance with the point of service. He stated that each student must choose a milk with the reimbursement meal process.

Mr. Milton stated that it is very important to emphasize to all managers and staff the correct way to exercise the reimbursement meal process.

Mr. James stated that managers and staff have been trained on the correct way to process reimbursement meals. He stated that the School Food Service Management Team randomly check at the schools to ensure that each student and teacher fulfill their obligation with reimbursement meals.

Mr. Helms stated that students must be drilled to input their identification number to avoid minimal problems.

Mrs. Wood stated that there are consequences for not following federal regulations. She stated that the first year of implementation is followed by a level of scrutiny.

Mr. James stated that the district needs to restructure its organization. He stated that the district has operated for twenty years with a Director/Coordinator of Title I Programs. He stated that the district has to be accountable for all federal monies.

Mrs. Bonnie Wood shared with the Board the following monthly budget status summary reports: 1) 110 – General Fund – encumbered \$3,726,497.02; 2) 300 – Capital Projects – encumbered \$803,266.96; 3) 410 – Food Service – encumbered \$322,929.11; 4) 420 – Contracted Projects – encumbered \$825,415.12; 5) 431 – State Fiscal Stabilization; 6) 432- Targeted ARRA Stimulus – encumbered \$44,242.04; 7) 433 – Other ARRA Stimulus Grants – encumbered \$16,409.70.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Helms' concern about the Race To The Top grant, Mr. James stated that he would have more knowledge about the Race To The Top grant before the end of this school year.

Mr. Milton stated that he wish to meet with the Superintendent to discuss programs and activities on school campuses. He stated that there needs to be collaboration with the schools.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:55 p.m.